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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 4. Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services

1. At its 27th meeting, on 30 May, the Committee considered section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations queried the rationale for maintaining separate Divisions for General Assembly Affairs and for Economic and Social Council Affairs and Secretariat Services and suggested a merger would enhance efficiency. Other delegations stated that such a merger might not be desirable in the context of the efforts at revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. Reference was also made to the prerogatives of the Secretary-General as chief administrative officer of the Organization.

3. A number of delegations questioned the rationale for the dispersion of editorial functions, both within the Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services and between that Office and the Department for Conference Services. It was suggested that consolidation of such functions under the Department for Conference Services would promote efficiency and economy in this important area of work. One delegation did not accept the proposed increase in the resources for the Division for Palestinian Rights.

4. A number of delegations stressed that subprogramme 4, Question of Palestine: exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, should be given high priority, and that the resources of the Division for Palestinian Rights should be strengthened.

5. With regard to the new post proposed in this section, which is to enhance the Office's editorial capacity, it was suggested that a reduction in the volume of documentation and the production of documents on schedule would be preferable.

6. The proposed reclassifications of posts, other than that referred to in paragraph 4.20, were questioned by several delegations and supported by others.

Reservation

7. One delegation expressed its objection to the activities of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee welcomed the programming of activities under subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 following approval for the first time of the related programme in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

9. The Committee noted however that no priorities were proposed among the activities programmed in this section.

10. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General keep the question of the organization of editorial services under review and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

11. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.